

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Section supersedes two former similar sections enacted by act July 2, 1890, ch. 647, § 7, 26 Stat. 210, and act Aug. 27, 1894, ch. 349, § 77, 28 Stat. 570, each of which were restricted in operation to the particular act cited. Section 7 of act July 2, 1890, was repealed by act July 7, 1955, ch. 283, § 3, 69 Stat. 283, effective six months after July 7, 1955.

## AMENDMENTS

1982—Pub. L. 97-393 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted “Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,” and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

1980—Pub. L. 96-349 inserted provisions respecting award of prejudgment interest including considerations for the court in determining whether an award is just under the circumstances.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 4(b) of Pub. L. 96-349 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 15a and 15c of this title] shall apply only with respect to actions commenced after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept 12, 1980].”

## FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Costs, see rule 54, Title 28, Appendix, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

## CROSS REFERENCES

Jurisdiction of civil action or proceeding arising under commerce and anti-trust regulations, see section 1337 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Limitation of action, suspension of, see note under section 16 of this title.

Venue and service of process in action against corporation, see section 22 of this title.

Venue of district courts, see section 1391 et seq. of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 15b, 15c, 16, 35, 36, 4016, 4303, 4304 of this title; title 26 sections 162, 186; title 46 App. section 1706.

### § 15a. Suits by United States; amount of recovery; prejudgment interest

Whenever the United States is hereafter injured in its business or property by reason of anything forbidden in the antitrust laws it may sue therefor in the United States district court for the district in which the defendant resides or is found or has an agent, without respect to the amount in controversy, and shall recover threefold the damages by it sustained and the cost of suit. The court may award under this section, pursuant to a motion by the United States promptly made, simple interest on actual damages for the period beginning on the date of service of the pleading of the United States setting forth a claim under the antitrust laws and ending on the date of judgment, or for any shorter period therein, if the court finds that the award of such interest for such period is just in the circumstances. In determining whether an award of interest under this section for any period is just in the circumstances, the court shall consider only—

(1) whether the United States or the opposing party, or either party's representative, made motions or asserted claims or defenses so lacking in merit as to show that such party or representative acted intentionally for delay or otherwise acted in bad faith;

(2) whether, in the course of the action involved, the United States or the opposing party, or either party's representative, violated any applicable rule, statute, or court order providing for sanctions for dilatory behavior or otherwise providing for expeditious proceedings;

(3) whether the United States or the opposing party, or either party's representative, engaged in conduct primarily for the purpose of delaying the litigation or increasing the cost thereof; and

(4) whether the award of such interest is necessary to compensate the United States adequately for the injury sustained by the United States.

(Oct. 15, 1914, ch. 323, § 4A, as added July 7, 1955, ch. 283, § 1, 69 Stat. 282; amended Pub. L. 96-349, § 4(a)(2), Sept. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 1156; Pub. L. 101-588, § 5, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2880.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The antitrust laws, referred to in text, are defined in section 12 of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-588 substituted “threefold the” for “actual”.

1980—Pub. L. 96-349 inserted provisions respecting award of prejudgment interest including considerations for the court in determining whether an award is just under the circumstances.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-349 applicable only with respect to actions commenced after Sept. 12, 1980, see section 4(b) of Pub. L. 96-349, set out as a note under section 15 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective six months after July 7, 1955, see note set out under section 15b of this title.

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 15b, 16, 35, 36 of this title; title 28 section 1407.

### § 15b. Limitation of actions

Any action to enforce any cause of action under section 15, 15a, or 15c of this title shall be forever barred unless commenced within four years after the cause of action accrued. No cause of action barred under existing law on the effective date of this Act shall be revived by this Act.

(Oct. 15, 1914, ch. 323, § 4B, as added July 7, 1955, ch. 283, § 1, 69 Stat. 283; amended Pub. L. 94-435, title III, § 302(1), Sept. 30, 1976, 90 Stat. 1396.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this Act, referred to in text, probably refers to the effective date of act July 7, 1955, ch. 283, 69 Stat. 282, which was six months after July 7, 1955.

This Act, referred to in text, probably refers to act July 7, 1955.

## AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-435 substituted “section 15, 15a, or 15c” for “sections 15 or 15a”.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 4 of act July 7, 1955, provided: “This Act [enacting this section and section 15a of this title, amend-